

Michael F. Easley  
Governor



State of North Carolina  
Office of the Governor

For Release: **IMMEDIATE**  
Date: June 26, 2001

Contact: Reid Hartzoge  
Phone: (919) 733-5612

---

**KINSTON RECEIVES \$5.2 MILLION IN FEDERAL AND STATE HURRICANE RELIEF FUNDS**

**RALEIGH** – Gov. Mike Easley announced today that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the state have awarded Kinston \$5,237,617 as part of the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) to purchase 145 residential properties substantially damaged by Hurricane Floyd flooding.

FEMA will contribute 75 percent, \$3,928,211, of the project funding and the state will contribute the remaining 25 percent, \$1,309,404.

“These buyouts are critical in helping communities prepare and prevent the devastation that can result from natural disasters,” said Easley. “Hurricane Floyd was an important lesson for us all. As we move forward with recovery, the buyout program remains a crucial component of our hazard mitigation plan.”

The City of Kinston previously has been approved and funded for 341 buyouts. The announcement brings the total approved and funded Hurricane Floyd buyouts in Kinston to 486 structures.

Under this voluntary agreement, the homes will be demolished and the land turned over to the city to be kept permanently as open space.

“This year’s Midwest flooding proved buyouts work – the 1993 buyouts reduced damage costs in this year’s flooding,” said FEMA Director Joe Allbaugh. “I am deeply committed to mitigation through buyouts and other measures. Removing substantially disaster-damaged structures from the floodplain makes good economic sense.”

Grants under the HMGP grants go to state and local governments to implement long-term hazard mitigation measures. The program’s goal is to reduce the loss of life, property, and goods due to natural disasters. It gives residents the choice of moving permanently out of harm’s way.

The City of Kinston is partnering with the state of North Carolina in building disaster resistant communities. The City of Kinston is a participant in good standing in the National Flood Insurance Program, a condition for qualifying for these acquisition grants.

###